2

It is noted that the first species is generic to the second species, which relates

to a first linear motion X axis stage, and a second linear motion X axis stage mounted

on the frame parallel to the first. That is to say all the features of the first species as

defined by the Examiner are found in the second species. Thus all of claims 96 - 102

belong to the first species. Claims 96 to 98, 101 and 102 include neither features and

thus are generic to the species. Claim 99 includes only a single X-axis stage and thus

belongs to the first species. Claims 100 and 101 include a single X axis stage and thus

belong to the first species, and also include a second parallel X-axis stage so that they

also belong to the second species.

A first action on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 28, 2010